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# THE ORACLE.

EXPONENT OF THE WEST GATE PHILOSOPHY.

A JOURNAL OF PROGRESS, DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE OF  
HIGH IDEALS.

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Seldom, whilst under discipline and bewildered with pain, can we arrive at a healthy, reasonable judgment as to its meaning, for what evil in the past it was sent, or what fruit in the future it is intended to yield. Among other reasons, because this divine education is not primarily a *teaching of lessons*, but a *training of faculties*.—*Within the Veil.*

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"In the will work and acquire, and thou hast chained the wheel of Chance and shalt always drag her after thee."

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EXPONENT OF THE WEST GATE PHILOSOPHY.

ISSUED MONTHLY.

CHARLES H. MACKAY, - - - - Editor and Publisher.

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## MYSTERY OF THE PHYSICAL.

A correspondent writes as follows: "I cannot see how or why the physical exercises which you so recommend are going to assist us to develop spiritually. Were that the case, that one is dependent upon the other, I should have grown into the truth long ago, for, from my boyhood I have been very fond of athletics of every description, and the mild and gentle training which you give is mere child's play to me, etc., etc."

.....In reply to this very natural comment from one who has not read my writings in former years I make the following brief repetitions: In the first place you are all right "spiritually." In other words the spiritual part of you is *not* to be "developed." This is part and parcel of God and is already perfect. Get this idea well grounded in your mental organism or you will continually be running into mysteries. Comprehending this point you will then see the necessity of looking elsewhere for a solution of the question, and you will not proceed far before you will encounter the body and the bodily attributes. These must be *raised* to the vibratory pitch of the soul, or if not into actual unison with it, then to that degree of intensity where a third, fifth or octave is known. Then harmony is the result and not until then. Now in plain parlance, equally comprehensive to the musical and as well as the unmusical reader, I will reduce this to more simple terms: The "gentle exercises" call into play those muscles, nerves and tissues which are seldom touched in your vigorous and



heroic athletics. How often this same antiquated argument has been spread before me since I commenced this method of growth. How often I have been informed that "oh! your exercises and your system of development is of no use to me, for I have exercise enough during the ten hours per day that I steadily labor for my subsistence." Now this has nothing to do in the matter. The "ten hours per day" labor does nothing but tear down and exhaust. The W. G. system of movements and breathing then steps in and *restores*, builds up, opens the door to the exhaustless, and there discloses the very fount of mental and physical life and health. These forces are ever-present and seeking to enter if you will simply put your temple into that condition of harmony and receptivity whereby it will be possible. It is not for you to worry over the "spiritual." The spiritual, I repeat, is all right. It is for you to attend to getting your physical and mental into that degree of harmony and balance making it possible for the inspirational currents to enter and flow through you unrestrained. I will supplement the above by making an extract from my "West Gate Catechism," published in the St. Louis Magazine about two years ago:

Neophyte: In my first interview I asked you when the student in occult study could hope to rise superior to the temptations and adverse influences which contest his right to the path. Your reply was, "When the will is stronger than the animal force." Now I am a little puzzled over this point. Take, for example, a confirmed invalid whose physical strength is far less than his strength of will. Do you maintain that such an one is in a desirable state for making attainments?

Master: Emphatically I do not. Physical health and strength should be possessed in abundance, but the will must always be in the ascendancy or the sense-nature will blindly squander its life in exchange for a mere fleeting effect. If development of the higher attributes is not superior to the forces of the animal part of us, we shall meet with continual defeat. On the other hand, if we have no animal, or physical force

we have no foundation to work upon and no means of communication with the divinity within us. It is, indeed, a most narrow and dangerous path to find and hold.

N. Yet the professional athlete, the pugilist and the ball-player succeed in holding this high state of physical force for years, but I have never seen any evidence that such men are of a particularly superior order. Why should they not be, according to these statements of yours?

M. There are many ways of expending the life forces. We may do it wisely or foolishly as we choose. This depends entirely upon development of the higher attributes. The athlete, of which you speak, has no development or training of moral tendencies. He merely trains the muscles, and if, through exercise of brute force, he wins, that is sufficient; he has no higher aim. *The forces of the body may be directed exactly as we desire, but if they are expended upon the physical plane, we may expect only those results which are of the same character.*

N. Then I am to understand that a sound physique is a means through which to get results, but that we are not to consider it (the perfect body) the result itself?

M. That is a very clear statement, indeed, and a most truthful one. *The harmonious human body makes it possible for the highest aspirations of the inmate (the soul) to communicate with the senses.* Then we receive the most divine inspirations, for the soul is part and parcel of the All Wise, and vested with His attributes. When this communication is perfectly established, we shall no longer be under the dominion of "fate," but will be able to shape our destinies with precision. A partial establishment of connection between the inner and the outer sometimes results in cessation of growth and general misfortune for awhile. This is noticeable in that class of people known as spirit mediums. They accept the attempt of their own souls as the promptings of disembodied "spirits." Sometimes they waste years at this stage. This comes of their being of especially sensitive and fine organisms and lacking

that training of will and understanding which the West Gate school suggests. Also they are too apt to promptly surrender their own wills to the new power and accept all as infallible. Now, infallibility must not be expected in early promptings from within, for this reason: The body is so completely inharmonious and rebellious to all appertaining to the soul that a communication coming through it (the body, or brain-organs) cannot fail to be more or less warped and misleading. Therefore, at first, we must accept promptings, impressions, etc., with many allowances and never feel disappointed when, having followed them, we fail to see their wisdom.

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### TAURUS PEOPLE.

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April 19th to May 20th marks the period in which "Taurus people" are born. If I were to choose one word in the English language to describe these people I should select *determination*. Energy, perseverance, push! These are all characteristic of Taurus. People born under this sign can hardly understand the word fail. If repulsed in one direction they will immediately set about to attain their end in another way. Taurus is usually full of mental and physical vitality and makes the firmest of friends. Also the people of this sign are invaluable advisers and will tell you what is for your best, and this, too, without any selfish view or interest whatever. Often Taurus has a superficial brusqueness in manner which offends those not familiar with this people, but the *true* and deep manner is tender and solicitous of other's welfare. Taurus does not easily fall in love, and is rather a stranger to "love at first sight." I cannot (tho' I would!) state that the people of this sign are characterized by complete faithfulness to the partner of their joys and sorrows. I will, however, do them the justice to say that they seldom *pretend* to be paragons of fidelity, and so their husbands or wives are not often made objects of deceit. In my study of this department of the zodiac, I have not concluded that the peculiarity just mentioned is a *sin* with these people, but rather that they *are* so,



and that's all there is to it. A Taurus person who has made spiritual attainments, however, will take the opposite extreme in the matter of fidelity to one person. This is one of the earth signs, and the other earth signs are Virgo (Aug. 22 to Sept. 23) and Capricorn (Dec. 21 to Jan. 20). In all associations Taurus will find these signs most helpful and congenial. The people of this sign are often talented and well to the front in matters connected with the welfare of the world. Following I give a list of famous Taurus people: Shakespeare, born April 23rd, 1564; Oliver Cromwell, April 25, 1599; Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, April 26, 121; Gen. U. S. Grant, April 27, 1822; S. B. Morse, April 27, 1791; James Monroe, April 28, 1758; Horace Mann, May 5, 1796; Geo. W. Childs, May 12, 1829; Thos. Taylor, (Platonist) May 15, 1758; Wm. H. Seward, May 16, 1801; King Alphonso (of Spain), May 17, 1886; Czar Nicholas II of Russia, May 18, 1868.

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### Silent Prayer.

I need not leave the jostling world,  
Or wait 'till daily tasks are o'er,  
To fold my palms in secret prayer  
Within the close shut closet door.  
There is a viewless, cloistered room,  
As high as heav'n, as fair as day,  
Where, tho' my feet may join the throng,  
My soul can enter in and pray.

And never thro' those crystal walls  
The clash of life can pierce its way,  
Nor ever can a human ear  
Drink in the spirit words I say.  
One heark'ning, even, cannot know  
When I have crossed the threshold o'er,  
For He alone, who hears my prayer,  
Has heard the shutting of the door.—Selected.

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### The Breath.

Looked upon from the higher standpoint, physical development is but one of the means to find our spiritual natures.

The chest being the seat of life in the human organism, vitality, then, in the body depends upon vigorous action of lungs

and heart. If these are weakly then our entire physical structure is of a like nature. The starting point or most essential thing then is to develop the chest or attain to the proper breath.

Those who have taken advantage of the exercises which Mr. Hotchkiss has so ably presented in the ORACLE, cannot help but know and appreciate him as a most efficient instructor in physical development from the higher standpoint.

A few words pertaining to the question : We have stated that the chest is the seat of life, consequently it must be the seat of our spiritual life.

God breathed into man the 'Breath of Life.' If God was the giver of this 'Breath of Life', it must be a part of himself with which we are endowed. But alas! how many of us have been blinded through ignorance to the 'God within.'

So while we are exercising let not our minds waver, but be fixed upon this most noble resolve with a determination to vanquish all relating to the sensual, and establish that most perfect gift, "purity of heart."

SISTER LEO.

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—A recent purchaser of my manuscript lessons writes as follows: "West Gate Teachers' Course received. Am very well pleased with it. It's practicability struck me at first reading. After a week's practising the drills in the first copy of the West Gate I am glad to be able to say that I gained more in personal magnetism than I did for many months previous. I intend to practise the drills and follow out your suggestions assiduously, seeing they work such good results from the very beginning."

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—The price of my sixteen lessons of the West Gate Course has been reduced to \$2.50. This is done to meet the demand of that large class of students who do not care for the private term of six months' correspondence, but who wish for the lessons *only*. When the student desires the privilege of correspondence with the lessons, the old price of five dollars will be in force.



## The Moon's Position by Hours, May, 1896.

EASTERN TIME.

Moon enters the sign:

Capricornus	April	30	at	Midnight
Aquarius	May	3		2 a. m.
Pisces		5		1 p. m.
Aries		8		9 a. m.
Taurus		11		3 a. m.
Gemini		13		Noon
Cancer		15		3 p. m.
Leo		17		5 p. m.
Virgo		19		11 p. m.
Libra		22		7 a. m.
Scorpio		24		1 p. m.
Sagittarius		26		1 p. m.
Capricornus		28		10 a. m.
Aquarius		30		11 a. m.
Pisces	June	1		9 a. m.

New moon, May 12th, at 3 p. m.

Full moon, May 26th, at 5 p. m.

Conjunction of the moon with:

Mars, May 7th, 11 a. m.

Venus, May 11, 9 a. m.

Mercury, May 14th, at noon

Neptune, May 14th, 2.30 p. m.

Jupiter, May 18th, 2 a. m.

Saturn, May 25th, 9 a. m.

Uranus, May 25th, 8 p. m.

The planet Mercury may be seen to advantage for perhaps a week (if the skies are clear) commencing May third or fourth. Look for him soon after sunset and you will find him red and sparkling a few degrees north of the point where the sun sinks from view. This planet is one of the most difficult to locate unless observations are made upon the few days when he is visible. He is so near the sun and his movements so rapid that comparatively few people, even of advanced age, have ever seen him to recognize. This planet shines with a brilliant red light and has almost the same characteristics of a star. Unlike the other planets (which shine with a steady light) Mercury sparkles, and twinkles very noticeably.

—O, my son, look thee out for a kingdom worthy of thyself, for Macedonia is too small for thee!

PHILLIP TO ALEXANDER.

—*I will not give up.* I shall reap if I faint not. My royal inheritance lies just on the other side of the wall of my ignorance, and I am determined to attain it let what will come. I feel the embryo goodhood in me struggling for expression and freedom and I am trying to learn to *be still*, that it may manifest.

L. B. G.

—In a private letter recently sent me from the United Society of Shakers, the writer suggests that students of the West Gate teaching would probably be interested in the literature, work and customs of his people. I, myself, am of the same opinion, and would advise my readers to look into the matter, especially those who are desirous of joining a colony, or community. The Shakers have laid the foundation and done valuable pioneer work. In fact they may be said to be the only really successful “colonists” of the century, and they will gladly welcome any and all worthy people who are not afraid to do a fair amount of work. Pamphlets and all information will be furnished by Mr. William C. Ayer, Ass’t. Trustee, Union Village, Ohio.

“Thy heavenly dreams and visions, O, hungering thirsting soul,  
Are shadows cast of what thou hast within thine own control;  
On seraph’s pinion claim thy dominion o’er passions, frets and jars,  
Thou’lt find on Earth the Christ-like birth and not beyond the stars.”

—Dr. J. Ashworth, an earnest co-worker in the advanced thought lines, has just issued the first number of a neat eight page weekly. Title of the paper is “The Gospel Messenger.” Subscription price is \$1 per year. The journal is “devoted to the supreme method of the Christ in the awakening of mankind into the divinely established order of life.” Send for a sample copy; it will interest you. The Gospel Messenger is published every Saturday at Leo, Howell Co., Mo.

—There is a world in “dream-land” which, could we enter it consciously and bring away its remembrances, would take away all the worry and trouble and care with which the day usually loads us. Fancy a hardship of ten hours, with the ever present knowledge that at the end of that period you will enter a condition of perfect happiness and tranquility, would the ten hours be so heavy as now? And yet this is precisely what might be if you could have the faith and the determination to solve this most common phenomenon of your existence.

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